

1     ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

          An exchange changes a route of a  
transmission path to bypass a malfunctioning switch.  
The transmission path is formed in a switch network  
5     including a plurality of switches for transmitting  
communication information. The switch network is  
provided with a plurality of inputs and a plurality of  
outputs so that the transmission path is formed  
between one of the inputs and one of the outputs by  
10    routing the switches in the switch network. A  
malfunctioning switch detecting unit detects a  
location of the malfunctioning switch in the switch  
network. The route of the transmission path is  
changed by switching one of the inputs and outputs  
15    connected to the transmission path based on  
predetermined routing information which indicates a  
route to bypass the malfunctioning switch in relation  
to the inputs or the outputs of the switch network.

20

25

30

35